

# WNY Young Writers' Studio

APRIL/MAY NEWSLETTER



## A Tribute to Sarah Hanson

*If you would take, you must first give, this is the beginning of intelligence. ~Lao Tzu*

Studio began in the summer of 2008 in a tiny little classroom on the campus of Daemen College. I recall desks that were too big for our littlest writers, an elevator that was too small for the rest of us, and the exact weight and measurement of every crate, box, and bag we hauled up and down those stairs at the end of each day.

I remember how thrilled I was to be working with young writers again, how much it meant to have my own children and some of my favorite colleagues writing and learning beside me, and how grateful I was to my friends and my husband for helping me get things off the ground that year.

I also remember Sarah.

Sarah Hanson was one of the very first WNY Young Writers' Studio fellows. She came to us that summer brimming with ideas for a novel that she wanted to finish, a friend from her home town that she wanted to encourage as a writer, and plans to become a *NeXt* correspondent. Over the years, Sarah contributed significant creative perspective to our program. She served as a mentor, and her experiences and feedback have helped us consider how we can continue to grow and improve our work together over time. She also set the tone for how we welcome, support, and sustain one another at Studio. As a founding fellow, Sarah consistently gives more than she ever receives, and we are all better writers, friends, teachers, and leaders because of her influence.

In a few short weeks, Sarah will graduate from high school and begin a new life as a college student. Niagara University has no idea how lucky they are to have her. In the coming weeks, I hope you will reach out to Sarah to congratulate her on all that she has accomplished and to thank her in very specific ways for all that she has done for you and for our community.

Thank you so very much for everything, Sarah. I am so proud *of* you and so proud to *know* you.

Love,  
Angela



## **PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION IN OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF WRITERS IN PROGRESS!**

Our Annual Celebration of Writers in Progress will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm at Union East Elementary School in Cheektowaga, New York. During this time, teachers and writers from both Studio locations will showcase their learning by leading mini-workshop sessions focused on specific strategies, resources, or tools that have helped them in their work.

This is a very low-key, informal event that allows all of our fellows to share what they know with their peers in very small groups of about 4-6 members. Each session lasts about 10 minutes, and the day ends with the recognition of all Studio fellows, the distribution of our anthology, and a special tribute to the teachers and the mentors who work so hard to make our program worthwhile. It's a wonderful way to end our season, and we hope that all writers, parents, and friends will attend.

During our March sessions, writers worked with Angela and Betsy to prepare for this event in ways that make them comfortable. Parents received notes at home about the content of each writer's session and what, if anything, writers will want to prepare for the event. The time structure for the day and locations were clarified as well.

**Please email me to confirm your attendance and the topic of your child's mini-session, as I know that many often change their minds a few times. If kids still need help, I can provide that too. This RSVP is very important, as we want to ensure that writers have the support and space they need to share what they know in meaningful ways. We also want to make sure that all who come are properly fed and recognized for their year of hard work. I look forward to hearing from each of you by May 10<sup>th</sup>. Please email me at [stockmanangela@gmail.com](mailto:stockmanangela@gmail.com) THANK YOU!!!!**



## Giving of Your Time or Talent As Our New Season Begins

Registration for the 2012-2013 will open soon! This year, we are inviting *all* Studio writers and teachers to donate time and talent in lieu of paying tuition fees, if they wish. You may also choose to sponsor a Studio fellow as a parent, teacher, or friend by giving in similar ways. Registration fliers will be distributed shortly. For now, consider how you or your family might give back to Studio in the coming year by considering the ideas below. Detailed descriptions and estimated time commitments will be included in the registration packets, which will be released upon confirmation of dates from the Cheektowaga Board of Education. Online registration at <http://wnyyws.org>

SERVING ON COMMITTEES	Committee to Pursue 501C3 Status and the Awarding of Scholarships: Led by Angela
	Fundraising Committee: Leader TBD
	Studio Vision and Program Development Committee: Led by Angela
	Vision and Mentor Program Development Committee: Led by Sheri Barsottelli
	Newsletter Committee and Production: Leader TBD
	Events Committee: Leader TBD
	Anthology and Publishing Committee: Leader TBD
CLERICAL SUPPORT	Clerical Support: Advertising and Promotion *Promoting program via email and snail mail Spring 2012 and Fall 2012
	Clerical Support: Registration *Ensuring all registration forms are sent to those requesting paper copies, ensuring completion and filing of all registration paper work
	Clerical Support: Reminder Emails and Calls to Families *Emailing all families two weeks prior to each session, requesting an RSVP, and contacting only those who don't reply by email by phone
	Clerical Support: Policy Oversight *At start of each session: monitoring attendance and ensuring safety procedures will be followed
SUPPLIES	Supplying Treats for Registered Sessions (THREE sessions, TBD) *Plan to bring 30 treats, napkins, and if needed, plastic utensils
	New or VERY Gently Used Consumable Supply Donation (Choose ONE):
	___ 50-80 page spiral bound notebooks (25 total)      ___ 16 GB thumb drives (4 total)
	___ 2 pocket folders (25 total)      ___ 70-100 Sheets Lined paper (15 packages)
	___ Black or blue pens (100 total)      ___ 4x4 Post Its (40 single pads)
	___ 8 pack of Crayola washable markers (8 packs total)      ___ Post It Flip Chart for Wall (1)
	Used Tech Tools in Good Working Order (iPods/iPads/Netbooks/Laptops/Other)
SERVICES AND TALENT	Making Copies of Our Materials for Sessions or Donating Equipment (Exact Terms Negotiated Together)
	Other Supplies That YOU Think We Might Be Able to Use
	Attorneys: Consultation and Advisement Relevant to Obtaining and Sustaining 501C3 Status
	Teachers and Artists: Serving as a teacher, poet, writer, musician, or artist in residence
	Teachers and Students: Volunteering to tutor a Studio writer beyond our session times
	Researchers: Conducting or leading action research projects within our program
	Restaurant or Building Owners: Providing space for teachers and mentors to meet and plan beyond our sessions
	Professional Development Service Providers: Providing quality professional development support or consultation
	Event Planners: Consultation and Advisement Relevant to Future Fundraising Events and Community Celebrations
	Donating your time or your talent in other ways (be creative)!

**Do you have other ideas? Please share!**

